

EDF-ER Burnhead Moss Education & Training Fund FUND FACTSHEET

Do you live in Avonbridge & Standburn, Limerigg & Slamannan or Blackridge?

Are you doing an education or training course to boost your skills or thinking about applying for one?

Are you keen for some financial support to help you with the course?

If so, then take a few minutes to read this information about a local Fund that could help you....

What is the EDF-ER Burnhead Moss Education & Training Fund?

The Fund represents 20% of the overall EDF-ER Burnhead Moss Community Fund, provided by EDF-ER and linked to their wind farm between Limerigg, Blackridge and Avonbridge. Its focus is to support local people with vocational education and training opportunities using local training facilities and contribute to creating job opportunities in the local area.

The Education & Training Fund started in 2016 and should continue for the operating life time of the wind farm which is likely to be 20-25 years.

How much is available?

The Fund will have a minimum of £26,000 available each year.

Do I have to be studying a specific course or training in a particular area?

You can be studying any subject but priority is given to courses as follows:

- Priority 1: Renewables & energy related.
- Priority 2: Engineering, construction, health and safety, other STEM related.
- Priority 3: Industries which will benefit local employment including childcare, forestry, plumbing, joinery, electrician, other trades related, haulage, agriculture. Also generic courses that enhance employability.
- Priority 4: Other education courses.



EDF-ER Burnhead Moss Education & Training Fund

Who can apply?

If you are aged 16 and over, living in the Area of Benefit and doing a further education or training course to develop your skills and employability you are eligible to apply.

Your course may be an Apprenticeship/NC/HNC/HND or a shorter course taking place over a few days or weeks. The most important thing is that you live in the Area of Benefit and really want to improve your skills and qualifications.

Here are some examples:

Joe has had a few labouring jobs since leaving school but nothing long-term. Now he's seen an ad for agency driving jobs but needs a 1-week class-2 HGV licence.

Jacqui has only had occasional casual work so far. She's been applying for bar jobs but feels she'd have more chance of an interview if she had the 1-day personal licence qualification.

Dave's being made redundant next month. He's heard of a warehouse job... all he needs is a 3-day fork-lift ticket.

Margaret worked in admin before starting her family. She needs to update her computer skills at evening classes to help her get back to work.

Shirley is keen to find work now her children are all at school. She's been accepted for the HND in Childhood Practice and hopes this will help her on a path towards becoming a Teaching Assistant.

If you are still at school but attending a college course for some of the week, you are only eligible to apply for costs that are not covered by your school, the college or the Council.

If you are a local business looking to provide local employment but need prospective employees to have had some specialist training then this Fund could also assist. We'd be looking for the business to provide some meaningful work experience to the 'trainee' but it would be up to you and the trainee to work out their suitability for the longer term. We are keen to trial this idea so if you are a local business and this is relevant to you please give us a call.



EDF-ER Burnhead Moss Education & Training Fund

How much can I apply for?

The level of grant will depend on the course you want to do and your own situation.

For **short courses under a year** you can apply for part or all of the course fee. We may also be in a position to assist with the cost of travel, childcare and subsistence based on £15 per day.

For **courses of one year or longer** we offer up to £5 per day subsistence for up to three years plus up to £600 towards equipment in Year 1. See the following table for examples of grants:

Course	Level of Grant		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Modern Apprenticeship	£1,500	£900	£200 (day-release)
NC, HNC, HND, degree	£1,500	£900	£900 (full-time)

What can I use the money for?

The money can be used for anything that will help you attend your further education or training course. So it could help towards some of the following costs:

Travel; meals; childcare; study aids (e.g. laptop, software, stationery); technical aids (e.g. specialist clothing related to the course, tools, other specialist equipment)

Does it matter where the course is taking place?

No, but priority is given where applicants are using local training facilities. Local providers and/or useful contacts include places like:

Forth Valley College - www.forthvalley.ac.uk

West Lothian College - www.west-lothian.ac.uk

Sibbald Training - www.sibbaldtraining.com

Am I eligible if I go to university?

Yes, but priority is given to vocational courses at local training facilities.

How will I get the money?

Where the grant is contributing to course fees Foundation Scotland can pay the college or training provider directly. For other costs we will pay the grant directly into your bank account. For courses lasting a year or longer we will pay the grant in

EDF-ER Burnhead Moss

Education & Training Fund

instalments and you will need to complete a form at the end of each term signed by someone from your college confirming you have been attending regularly. If you are offered a grant but do not have a bank account we will work with you to find a solution to ensure you can still benefit from the grant.

My family are able to support me. Can I still apply?

Yes, the Fund does not apply a personal 'means test'.

I receive other support. Can I still apply?

Yes, but we do ask for details of other grants, bursaries, etc. If we receive more applications than the Fund can support we may use this information to help us make the fairest decision.

What's the catch?

There isn't one. By providing these grants the Fund aims to encourage and support local people to improve their skills and life chances. We believe that committing community money in this way can help motivate and inspire people to aim higher and achieve more.

If you do receive a grant we will ask you to keep us informed how you are getting on with your course and how the grant is helping you.

We may invite you contribute to other activity linked to the wider EDF-ER Burnhead Moss Fund and ask you to promote the Education & Training Fund in your community so others get to hear about it.

How do I apply?

Complete the application form and send it in with any supporting documentation required to Foundation Scotland who will then be in touch to review your application before making a decision. If you are successful, Foundation Scotland will send you a Grant Acceptance form for you to sign and return. If you wish funds to be paid direct into an account we also request that you send us an original recent bank statement or pay-in slip to verify your bank details. We will return any original bank statements. If you prefer to receive a cheque we do not need to see an original bank statement or pay-in slip.

When do I apply?

Applications can be received at any time but all short course applications must be received **before** the course starts. Please allow up to four weeks for your application



EDF-ER Burnhead Moss Education & Training Fund

to be processed. If you need a decision more quickly we will do our best to process your application immediately but cannot guarantee doing this. We can accept applications from students already on longer term or multi-year courses but we will not make grant payments for any period before the application was received.

What if I've got some more questions or need some help completing the application form?

Your tutor may be able to help you with the form so do talk to them about your application. You can also call Foundation Scotland on 0131 524 0300 and we will be able to answer your questions.

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